

**Standard 7-4** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the impact of imperialism throughout the world in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**7-4.1** Summarize the economic origins of European imperialism, including the conflicts among European nations as they competed for raw materials and markets and for the establishment of colonies in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. (H, E, G)

**Taxonomy Level:** B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

**Previous/future knowledge:**

This is the first time students have been taught about the economic origins of European imperialism, including the conflicts among European nations as they competed for raw materials and markets and for the establishment of colonies in Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

In Global Studies, students will explain the economic and cultural impact of European involvement on other continents during the era of European expansion (GS-4.2). Students will explain the causes and effects of political, social, and economic transformation in Europe in the nineteenth century, including the significance of nationalism, the impact of industrialization for different countries, and the effects of democratization (GS-4.4). Students will also compare the political actions of European, Asian, and African nations in the era of imperial expansion (GS-4.5).

**It is essential for students to know:**

Industrialization was the primary **economic origin of imperialism**, because a wealth gap was created between industrialized and non-industrialized nations. Industrialized nations sought both raw materials from these less developed countries and new markets for finished products. Europe, the United States, and Japan were key imperial powers, while countries in Asia and Africa were the most sought-after areas to colonize.

Supporting the economic drives for imperialism were political and social forces. The race for colonies created a competition among European powers. Nationalist sentiment was stirred, and each country also sought to hold the most competitive posts around the world. Additionally, the belief in Western superiority, driven by Social Darwinism, justified imperial conquests. Rudyard Kipling's "The White Man's Burden" became an anthem for imperialism, stating that it was the duty of the Western powers to take their superior culture to the lesser nations, despite the resistance they may encounter.

**In Africa**, early exploration was hampered by disease and geographic barriers. But in the 1860s, David Livingstone traveled into central Africa as a missionary. After receiving no word from him for many years, American reporter Henry Stanley set out to find Livingstone and explore Africa, sparking an interest in the continent. This exploration and increasing interest led to a treaty whereby Belgium gained the Congo. The Congo rubber plantations were a site of brutal exploitation until Leopold II was removed from power in 1908. Soon after Belgium claimed a section of Africa, other nations of Europe scrambled to do the same. The Berlin Conference of 1884-85 set forth the rules for the division of Africa. Fourteen European nations met, with no

African representation, to divide the continent with little regard to ethnic or linguistic boundaries. With Europe's advanced technology, primarily weaponry and steamships, and the cultural disunity of Africa, the African nations were easily dominated. Only Liberia and Ethiopia remained unimperialized by 1914. Despite the European agreement to peaceful division, conflicts still arose. For example, in South Africa, the Dutch, British, and Africans fought for land and resources (7-4.4).

**In Asia**, India became the “jewel of the crown” for Britain (7-4.4) after the British East India Company set up trading posts along the Indian coast. Initially regulated by the Mughal Dynasty, the British gained influence in India as the Mughals collapsed. As India increased in profitability to Britain, others sought to tap into its resources. The Great Game was fought as Russia tried to expand control into British-controlled territory in Asia. Much of the fight was centered in Afghanistan; this “war” was only ended by WWI. Elsewhere in Southeast Asia and **Oceania**, European powers fought for control of the agricultural benefits and strategic locations offered by lands of Southeast Asia. The Dutch, British, and French were the primary stakeholders, seeking trading posts and cash crops.

**It is not essential for students to know:**

It is not essential for students to know every land colonized during the period of imperialism, or which land went specifically to whom. It would be helpful to focus on the trends seen and why certain areas were desirable over others (the political, economic, and social gains).

**Assessment guidelines:**

The objective of this indicator is to **summarize** the economic origins of European Imperialism including the conflicts that developed over raw materials and markets; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to **generalize** the parts of Imperialism. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to **identify** how the industrial revolution impacted this imperialistic venture; **illustrate** parts of Industrial Revolution using words, pictures, or diagrams; or **classify** by sequencing how the desire for raw materials and markets made countries fight fervently to gain more and more control of the world. Students may also **illustrate** how imperialism impacted the build up of world tensions that led to WWI.